



Korean Driving Safety

For more information contact:

7AF/SE

784-2473/2474



Driving Safety

- **Introduction**
- **Why this briefing and why now?**
- **Mishap Reviews**
- **Risk Assessment Ideas**
- **Steps to Safe Driving at Night**
- **Legal Considerations**
- **Summary**



Why this briefing & why now?

- **7AF Drivers have struck, and killed, four Korean citizens since July 1998**
- **Korea is less than 240 miles long & 150 miles wide (the size of Indiana)**
- **7AF units drive MILLIONS of miles each year**
- **7AF “owns” thousands of vehicles**
- **The *potential* for mishaps is high**



Why this briefing & why now?

- **Lot's of new Korean cars and drivers hit the road every year.**
 - Automotive history “began” in 1988
 - Average Korean driver is a “teenager”
- **Lot's of pedestrians on all the roads**
 - Few sidewalks
 - Fewer curbs
 - No playgrounds



Why this briefing & why now?

- **“Kamikaze” bus/taxi drivers**
 - Routinely “hedge” on stop signs & traffic lights
 - Pressure to keep to a schedule
- **Intoxicated individuals laying in the road**
 - Cultural
 - Class A avoided as recently as night of 30 Jan



Why this briefing & why now?

- **Bad weather**
 - “Lake effect” snows
 - Fog & haze
 - Monsoon rains
- **Heavy traffic**
 - Korea is an “Asian Tiger”
 - Rapid growth in number of autos
- **Complacency**
 - Familiarity with a route



Mishap Reviews

- **Four mishaps - - four deaths**
 - One farm vehicle with two pax
 - One fatally injured
 - One moderately injured
 - Three pedestrians
- **Two drivers at Kunsan**
 - One military member
 - One civilian
- **Two drivers at Osan**
 - One military member
 - One civilian



Mishap Reviews

- **Common factors**
 - All at night
 - No alcohol
 - No fatigue factors
 - No weather factors
 - No mechanical defects
- ***Excessive Speed***
 - Factor in two



Risk Assessment

- Planning
- Human factors
- Climate
- Complexity
- Personnel
- Ops tempo
- Operational Location



Commander's Assessment

- Is the trip necessary?
- Is the vehicle ready?
- Is the driver ready?
- Is the driver trained?
- What's the weather?
- What's the support?
- How's the ops tempo?
- What's the C3 like?



Steps to Safe Driving

Four simple steps to increase safety at night

- Step One: **Look as far ahead as you can**
 - If you see an object that might present a hazard, assume that it will, and slow down!
- Step Two: **Avoid over- driving your headlights**
 - Drive slower at night than during the day
- Step Three: **Make sure other drivers can see you**
 - Check your vehicle's lights before you leave
- Step Four: **Don't drive while tired**



Legal Considerations

- **ROK Treat Auto Accidents Seriously!**
 - Personal injury equals a crime
 - Under ROK law, the driver is responsible for safety of pedestrians
 - If in accident with a pedestrian, the driver is considered to be at “fault”



Legal Considerations

- **ROK Will Criminally Charge If You Fail To Obey Traffic Laws, i.e. Speeding**
 - Charge is dependent on extent of injury
- **Do Not Flee The Scene Of An Accident**
 - The ROK are more likely to prosecute you
- **SOFA Will Not Prevent ROK Criminal Action**
 - Placed on “international hold” & remain in Korea for several months



Legal Considerations

- **Punishable Even If Agreement With Victim:**
 - Death involved
 - Fleeing the scene
 - Accident with injuries and one of the following:
 - Violate traffic signal, fail to stop
 - Speeding by 20 Km
 - Unsafe or illegal passing
 - DUI
 - Failure to stop for pedestrians in crosswalk



Summary

- **Four mishaps - four fatalities in eight months**
- **All were 7AF drivers that struck Koreans**
 - Two at Kunsan
 - Two at Osan
- **Drive Carefully And Very Attentively**
- **If Involved In An Accident, Contact**
 - Security police
 - Korean National Police
 - The Legal Office For Assistance